

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 417

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR GOODMAN.

Read 1st time January 31, 2007, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1496S.02I

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 261, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the farm mentoring and education fund.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 261, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new  
2 section, to be known as section 261.112, to read as follows:

261.112. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury the  
2 "Farm Mentoring and Education Fund", which shall consist of moneys  
3 appropriated from the general revenue fund and any other moneys  
4 made available by gift, grant, bequest or contribution. All moneys  
5 appropriated or otherwise awarded to the fund shall be payable to the  
6 state treasurer and deposited into the farm mentoring and education  
7 fund. The fund shall be administered by the farm mentoring and  
8 education authority within the University of Missouri Extension  
9 Center. The general assembly may appropriate up to ninety-nine  
10 thousand dollars per fiscal year to the fund. Any moneys remaining in  
11 the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the credit of  
12 the general revenue fund.

13 2. Each calendar year the authority shall administer the farm  
14 mentoring and education program from a different university extension  
15 service office located in a different region from the extension service  
16 office that administered the program during the immediately preceding  
17 year.

18 3. Moneys appropriated to the fund shall be used to provide for  
19 educational programming that combines classroom training with  
20 support training such as workshops, apprenticeships, and mentorships  
21 in order to create a program designed to help individuals plan and

22 begin sustainable farm enterprises. Moneys shall also be used to  
23 provide a salary for a director and staff for the farm mentoring and  
24 education authority.

25       4. In the performance of its duties and selection of specific  
26 training and projects to receive funding under this section, the  
27 authority shall fulfill the goal of facilitating new farms and new  
28 farmers, guided by the principles in subdivisions (1) to (5) of this  
29 subsection.

30       (1) The program shall provide education and training, giving  
31 participants an opportunity to learn firsthand about low-cost,  
32 traditional, and sustainable methods of farming through classroom  
33 instruction;

34       (2) The authority shall develop beyond the classroom, a  
35 mentoring system, pairing participants with experienced farmers to  
36 give participants firsthand opportunities to learn about traditional and  
37 sustainable agriculture within the state;

38       (3) The authority shall exercise diligence and care in the  
39 selection of its projects and program participants;

40       (4) The authority shall promote the program across the state,  
41 endeavoring to reach both traditional full-time farmers and individuals  
42 pursuing various agriculture commodities niches; and

43       (5) The authority shall have the ability to establish and oversee  
44 new training sites throughout the state.

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